

Docket No.: 230420US41YA/jkl

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Andrej S. MITROVIC, et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/673,583

GROUP: 2128

FILED: September 30, 2003

EXAMINER: SAXENA, AKASH

FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING FIRST-PRINCIPLES SIMULATION TO
PROVIDE VIRTUAL SENSORS THAT FACILITATE A SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING PROCESS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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SIR:

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of August 1, 2011, Applicants respectfully submit the following comments.

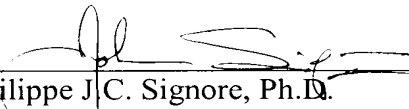
In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, paragraph 1 states in part:

The following is an **examiner's statement of reasons for allowance**: claims(s) 1-7, 10-13, 15-34, 37-54 and 62 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims, specifically "1) a spatially resolved model of a physical geometry of the semiconductor processing tool 2) a grid set addressing the semiconductor processing tool or a geometry of the semiconductor processing tool (as defined in specification: [0076])... using code parallelization techniques on multiple simulation modules in the device manufacturing fab, and re-using known simulation solutions as initial conditions for the first principles simulation (as defined in specification: [0049][0050]) wherein re-using known simulation solutions comprises searching in the fab-level library for a closest fitting solution which if used for the initial condition would reduce the number of iterations required by the

It is respectfully noted that the Examiner's Statement mischaracterizes the claims to the extent that the Examiner's Statement provides explanations which suggest that the claims include additional limitations beyond the language of the claims. The specification and its explanations provide non-limiting embodiments of Applicants' advancement. It is the claims that define the invention, and not Applicants' specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement does not apply to Claims 1, 28 and 62 to the extent the language used in the statement differs from the language of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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